

Recognizing Terrorist Activity

Although the U.S. government is responding to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, citizens can take concrete steps in the community and in the workplace to help detect and deter suspected international terrorists. By being aware of your surroundings and knowing how and when to report crime, you can make a difference in the war on terrorism.

Signs of terrorist activity may include:

§ Someone bragging or talking about plans to harm citizens in violent attacks or who claims membership in a terrorist organization that espouses killing innocent people.

§ Suspicious packages, luggage or mail that have been abandoned in a crowded place, like an office building, an airport, a school or a shopping center.

§ A suspicious letter or package that arrives in your mailbox. (Stay away from the letter or package, and don't shake, bump or sniff it; wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water.)

§ Someone suspiciously exiting a secured, non-public area near a train or bus depot, airport, tunnel, bridge, government building or tourist attraction.

§ Any type of activity or circumstance that seems frightening or unusual within the normal routines of your neighborhood, community and workplace.

§ Someone unfamiliar loitering in a parking lot, government building, or around a school or playground.

§ Someone using, or threatening to use, a gun or other weapon, place a bomb, or release a poisonous substance into the air, water or food supply.

§ Strange odors, smoke, fire or an explosion.

§ Abandoned vehicles.

Reporting Terrorist Activity

If you believe you have information that would help authorities, do not take any action other than to inform your local police or sheriff's department or FBI as soon as possible. Here are some tips for reporting:

§ Call 9-1-1 for life-threatening emergencies only.

§ Call your police non-emergency number to report any behavior or event that seems to be outside the norm, or is frightening, but does not

immediately endanger lives or property.

§ Call your local FBI field office. To find your local office, go to www.fbi.gov/contact/fo/info.htm or check inside the front cover of your local phone book. You can also contact the FBI at (866)-483-5137 or submit a tip on its Web site, www.fbi.gov.

§ Remain calm and provide the following information:

- Your name and address.
- A brief description of the event: what happened, when, where, and who was involved.
- Description of the suspect: sex, race, age, height, weight, hair color, clothing, distinctive characteristics such as beard, mustache, scars or accent.
- Description of the vehicle if one was involved: color, make, model, year, license plate, and special features such as stickers, dents or decals.
- Where you think the suspicious person(s) may have gone.

